

## **State Capitol Committee**

*October 6, 2016*

### **Naming of Campus Buildings**

#### **Purpose: Advice**

The purpose of this agenda item is for the State Capitol Committee (SCC) to discuss and to reaffirm a recommendation to the Legislation on the renaming of Office Building #2 and to recommend the naming the new office building at the 1063 block. Ann Larson, Enterprise Services' Director of Government Relations Manager, will lead the agenda item.

#### **Background**

Current statutory authority, [RCW 43.34.090](#), provides the Legislature authority to approve naming new or existing buildings on the State Capitol grounds based on recommendations from the State Capitol Committee (SCC) and the Director of the Department of Enterprise Services (DES) with the advice of Capital Campus Design Advisory Committee (CCDAC). The RCW 43.34.090(1)(b)(i) and (ii) states:

- (b) A new or existing building may be named or renamed after:
  - (i) An individual who has played a significant role in Washington history;
  - (ii) The purpose of the building;

#### ***Renaming of Office Building #2:***

Below is a chronology of the State's efforts to rename Office Building #2 (OB2):

- In February 2014, the Department of Social and Health Services Secretary Quigley requested that their headquarter office at OB2 be renamed to the "Human Services Building".
- On May 22, 2014, the CCDAC unanimously carried a motion to advise the DES Director and SCC to recommend to the Legislature the renaming OB2 to Human Services Building.
- With advice from CCDAC, the DES Director and SCC recommended OB2 be renamed to the "Human Services Building".
- During the 2015 legislative session, a House Concurrent Resolution (HCR 4401 (Hunt, Reykdal)) was submitted at the request of DES. It passed the House with unanimous support, but did not make it off the Senate Floor.
- During the 2016 legislative session, the House resolution was reintroduced and passed the House with unanimous support again, but did not pass the Senate.
- The Senate also introduced a companion Senate Concurrent Resolution during the 2016 legislative session (SCR 8405 (Roach, Fraser)), but it did not make it out of Senate Rules.
- Both resolutions failed because of a lack of interest by members.
- At the September 15, 2016 Capitol Campus Design Advisory Committee (CCDAC) meeting, the CCDAC members unanimously passed a motion to reaffirm their advice to SCC and the Director of Enterprise Services to recommend the renaming of Office Building Two to the Human Services Building.

***Naming of 1063 Building:***

- During the 2016 legislative session, the supplemental budget (HB 2376 Sec 147(6)) included language to name the 1063 Block Replacement to the “Helen E. Sommers Building.”
- Helen Sommers is a woman who played a significant role in Washington history:
  - Helen was elected in 1972 and represented the 36th legislative district.
  - During the 1973 session, Helen was one of just 12 women in the 98 member House. At that time, there were no women in the Senate.
  - Helen served in the House from 1972 to 2009. When she retired, she was the state's longest serving legislator.
- At the September 15, 2016 Capitol Campus Design Advisory Committee (CCDAC) meeting, the CCDAC members unanimously passed a motion to advise the SCC and the Director of Enterprise Services to recommend the naming of the new office building at the 1063 block the “Helen E. Sommers Building.”

DES will seek a motion from the SCC to recommend the:

- Renaming the OB2 to the Human Services Building, and
- Naming the new building at the 1063 site to the Helen E. Sommers Building.

**Next Steps**

Continue the process as defined in statute to seek legislative approval to rename Office Building Two and name the new office building at the 1063 site with consideration of CCDAC's advice.

With the DES Director and SCC's support for the renaming/naming of the buildings, a letter will be sent to the Legislature recommending the renaming of the OB2 and the naming of the new office building at the 1063 block.

**RCW 43.34.090**  
**Building names**

(1) The legislature shall approve names for new or existing buildings on the state capitol grounds based upon recommendations from the state capitol committee and the director of the department of enterprise services, with the advice of the capitol campus design advisory committee, subject to the following limitations:

- (a) An existing building may be renamed only after a substantial renovation or a change in the predominant tenant agency headquartered in the building.
- (b) A new or existing building may be named or renamed after:
  - (i) An individual who has played a significant role in Washington history;
  - (ii) The purpose of the building;
  - (iii) The single or predominant tenant agency headquartered in the building;
  - (iv) A significant place name or natural place in Washington;
  - (v) A Native American tribe located in Washington;
  - (vi) A group of people or type of person;
  - (vii) Any other appropriate person consistent with this section as recommended by the director of the department of enterprise services.
- (c) The names on the facades of the state capitol group shall not be removed.

(2) The legislature shall approve names for new or existing public rooms or spaces on the west capitol campus based upon recommendations from the state capitol committee and the director of the department of enterprise services, with the advice of the capitol campus design advisory committee, subject to the following limitations:

- (a) An existing room or space may be renamed only after a substantial renovation;
- (b) A new or existing room or space may be named or renamed only after:
  - (i) An individual who has played a significant role in Washington history;
  - (ii) The purpose of the room or space;
  - (iii) A significant place name or natural place in Washington;
  - (iv) A Native American tribe located in Washington;
  - (v) A group of people or type of person;
  - (vi) Any other appropriate person consistent with this section as recommended by the director of the department of enterprise services.

(3) When naming or renaming buildings, rooms, and spaces under this section, consideration must be given to: (a) Any disparity that exists with respect to the gender of persons after whom buildings, rooms, and spaces are named on the state capitol grounds; (b) the diversity of human achievement; and (c) the diversity of the state's citizenry and history.

(4) For purposes of this section, "state capitol grounds" means buildings and land owned by the state and otherwise designated as state capitol grounds, including the west capitol campus, the east capitol campus, the north capitol campus, the Tumwater campus, the Lacey campus, Sylvester Park, Centennial Park, the Old Capitol Building, and Capitol Lake.

[ [2015 c 225 § 74](#); [2002 c 164 § 1](#).]